

On page 18:

in line 5, replace "means" with -way-;
in line 9, replace "means" with -way-;
in line 20, replace "," with -and-;
5 in line 22, replace "REPORT" with -Report-;
in line 25, replace "REPORT" with -Report-;
in line 27, replace "EVENTREPORT" with - EVENT-Report-;
in line 31, replace "means" with -way-; and
in line 35, replace "MEVENT-REPORT" with -M-EVENT-Report-.

On page 19:

in line 7, after "example", insert -, -;
in line 8, replace "M-EVENTREPORT" with -M-EVENT-Report-;
in line 23, replace "f or" with -for-;
in line 26, replace "means" with -way-;
15 in line 29, after "example", insert -, -;
in line 32, after "example", insert -, -; and
below line 33, insert

-- The above-described system and method are illustrative of the principles
of the present invention. Numerous modifications and adaptations thereof will be
20 readily apparent to those skilled in this art without departing from the spirit and
scope of the present invention.--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

On page 20:

replace line 1 with --WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:--;

25 Please amend claims 1-23 as follows:

1. (Amended) A method [Method] for processing state information in a
communication system by way [means] of a management network having
[exhibiting] a number of management levels [(A, B, C)], comprising the steps of:

transmitting [the] state information [being transmitted] between an agent [(AG)] of one management level [(B, C)] and a [at least one] manager [(MA1, MA2)] of a next-higher management level [(A, B)] for a state realignment; [, in which method]

5 sending, by said [- the] manager, [(MA1, MA2) sends] a request message [(staAS)] for performing said [the] state realignment to said [the] agent; [(AG),] checking, by said [- the] agent, said [(AG) checks the] state information with regard to deviations from a normal state; [,] and

10 sending, by said [- the] agent, [(AG) sends] changes in said [the] state information to said [the] manager [(MA1, MA2)] in one or more successive messages [(staCN)].

2. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of utilizing state attributes selected from the group consisting of an operational state, an administrative state, and a usage state [in which state attributes (OST, AST, UST) and/or status attributes (UNS, ALS, AVS) are used]
15 as state information.

3. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 2, further comprising the step of defining said [in which the] normal state [is defined] by [means of] predeterminable values for said state attributes selected from the group consisting of said operational state, said administrative state, and said usage state [the state attributes OST, AST, UST) and/or status attributes (UNS, ALS, AVS)].
20

4. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of utilizing [one of the preceding claims, in which] state attributes [(OST, AST, UST)] for characterizing an [the] operational readiness, [the] manageability and [the] use of a resource supported by said [the] agent [(AG)] in said [the] communication system [is used] as state information.
25

5 5. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of utilizing [one of the preceding claims, in which] status attributes [(UNS, ALS, AVS)], which specify for a resource supported by said [the] agent [(AG)] in said [the] communication system whether it is in an unknown state, in an alarmed state or in a state of availability, [is used] as state information.

10 6. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of: [one of the preceding claims, in which]
 sending, by said [the] manager [(MA1, MA2) also sends] in said [the] request message, [(staAS)] a correlation information item [(staAH)] for a
10 correlation of said [the] respective request with [the] messages [(staCN)] containing [the] changed state information received by said [the] agent [(AG)].

15 7. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of: [one of the preceding claims, in which]
 sending, by said [the] agent [(AG) also sends] in a message [(staSA)] for starting said [the] state realignment, a correlation information item [(aliNI)] for correlating the messages [(staCN)] containing [the] changed state information subsequently sent with said [the] state realignment started in each case.

20 8. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 7, further comprising the step of sending said [in which the] correlation information [(aliNI)] generated by said [the] agent [(AG) is also sent] in said [the] message or messages [(staCN)] containing said [the] changed state information.

25 9. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the steps of: [one of the preceding claims,]
 sending, by said manager, a parameter to said agent; and
 controlling, by said [in which the] manager [(MA1, MA2) controls the] said state realignment in dependence on said parameter [at least one parameter

(par) sent to the agent (AG)].

10. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the steps of: [one of the preceding claims, in which the]

5 sending, by said manager, [(MA1, MA2) sends] a parameter; [(par) by
means of which the]

automatically initiating said state realignment [is automatically initiated]
by said [the] agent, utilizing said parameter [(AG)].

11. The method as claimed in claim 10, further comprising the step of
providing [in which] a parameter [(par) is provided] by said [the] manager [(MA1,
10 MA2)] with a parameter value [(begT)] which specifies a starting time for said
[the] automatic state realignment.

12. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 10, further comprising
the step of providing [or 11, in which] a parameter [(par)] is provided] by said
[the] manager [(MA1, MA2)] with a parameter value [(endT)] which specifies an
15 end time for said [the] automatic state realignment.

13. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 10, further comprising
the step of providing, by said [one of claims 10 to 12, in which the] manager,
[(MA1, MA2) provides] a parameter [(par)] with a parameter value [(int)] which
specifies a time interval for a repetition of said [the] automatic state realignment.

20 14. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 9, further comprising the
step of providing, by said [one of claims 9 to 13, in which the] manager, [(MA1,
MA2) provides] a parameter [(par)] with a parameter value [(relEN)] which
characterizes [the] resources for which changed state information must be
transmitted by said [the] agent [(AG)].

15. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 9, further comprising the step of providing, by said [one of claims 9 to 14, in which the] manager, [(MA1, MA2) provides] a parameter [(par)] with a parameter value [(admS) by means of which] that permits interruption of a running state realignment [can be interrupted].

16. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 9, further comprising the step of sending, by said [one of Claims 9 to 15, in which the] manager, [(MA1, MA2) sends] said [the] parameter [or parameters (par)] to said [the] agent [(AG)] in said [the] request message [(staAS)].

10 17. (Amended) A communication system for processing state information in a management network, comprising [having] a number of management levels; [(A, B, C),] [the state information being transmitted between] an agent [(AG)] of a management level; [(e.g. B)]

15 [and at least one] a manager [(MA1, MA2)] of a next-higher management level, state information being transmitted between said agent and said manager [(e.g. A)] for a state realignment; [, comprising]

20 [-] facilities [(M-CTR)] in said [the] manager [(MA1, MA2)] for sending a request message [(staAS)] for performing said [the] state realignment to said [the] agent; [(AG),] and

[-] facilities [(A-CTR)] in said [the] agent [(AG)] for checking said [the] state information with regard to deviations from a normal state and for sending changes in said [the] state information to said [the] manager [(MA1, MA2)] in one or more successive messages [(staCN)].

18. (Amended) The communication system as claimed in claim 17,
wherein state attributes are provided selected from the group consisting of an
operational state, an administrative state, and a usage state [in which state
attributes (OST, AST, UST) and/or status attributes (UNS, ALS, AVS) are
5 provided] as state information.

19. (Amended) The communication system as claimed in claim 18, in
which the normal state is defined by values for said state attributes selected from
the group consisting of an operational state, an administrative state, a usage state,
an unknown state, an alarm status, and an available status [means of
10 predeterminable values for the state attributes (OST, AST, UST) and/or status
attributes (UNS, ALS, AVS)].

20. (Amended) The communication system as claimed in claim 17,
wherein [one of claims 17 to 19, in which] state attributes [(OST, AST, UST)] are
provided for characterizing an [the] operational readiness, a [the] manageability
and a [the] use of a resource supported by said [the] agent [(AG)] in said [the]
15 communication system as state information.

21. (Amended) The communication system as claimed in claim 17,
wherein [one of claims 17 to 20, in which] status attributes [(UNS, ALS, AVS)],
which specify for a resource supported by said [the] agent [(AG)] in said [the]
20 communication system whether it is in an unknown state, in an alarm state or in a
state of availability, are provided as state information.

22. (Amended) The communication system as claimed in claim 17,
wherein said [one of claims 17 to 21, in which the] state realignment can be
controlled by said [the] facilities [(M-CTR)] in said [the] manager [(MA1, MA2)]
25 in dependence on at least one parameter [(par)] sent to said [the] agent [(AG)].

23. (Amended) The communication system as claimed in claim 17,
wherein said [one of claims 17 to 22, in which the] facilities [(M-CTR)] in said
[the] manager [(MA1, MA2)] send a parameter [(par)] permitting said [by means
of which the] state realignment to [can] be automatically initiated by said [the]
5 agent [(AG)].

Please add the following claims 24-29

24. The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of
utilizing state attributes selected from the group consisting of an unknown state,
an alarm status, and an available status as state information.

10 25. The method as claimed in claim 24, further comprising the step of
defining said normal state by predeterminable values for said state attributes
selected from the group consisting of said unknown state, said alarm status, and
said available status.

15 26. The method as claimed in claim 10, further comprising the step of
providing, by said manager, a parameter with a parameter value which
characterizes resources for which changed state information must be transmitted
by said agent.

20 27. The method as claimed in claim 10, further comprising the step of
providing, by said manager, a parameter with a parameter value that permits
interruption of a running state realignment.

28. The method as claimed in claim 10, further comprising the step of
sending, by said manager, said parameter to said agent in said request message.